(ii) Concessional rate of Import duty of 5% on specified, textile machinery with state of art technology.

(iii) Dereservation of woven readymade garment from SSI sector.

(iv) Development of apparel parks for production and export of garments.

(v) Introduction of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) to facilitate modernisation and upgradation of textile sector.

(vi) Launch of Cotton Technology Mission for boosting production and quality of cotton.

(vii) Allowing foreign equity participation upto 100% through automatic route in this sector with certain exceptions.

(viii) Rationalization of DEPB rates for certain textile products.

(ix) A programme has also been launched to induct 50,000 shuttleless looms and to modernize 2.5 lakh powerlooms in the decentralised sector by 2004.

In budget proposals 2003-04, Finance Minister has announced that Government is considering a mechanism for restructuring the debt portfolios of viable and potential viable textile units.

Privatisation off Konark jute mill in Orissa

2930. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Konark Jute Mill at Dhanmandal in Orissa is running at profit;

(b) if so, the performance of the jute mill during last three years;

(c) whether Government have a proposal for the privatization of the Jute Mill; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) and (b) The Konark Jute Limited is a Orissa Government Public Undertaking. As per the information provided by the Government of Orissa, it is incurring losses during the last three years. The losses incurred by the mill for the past three years are as under:

(in Rs. Lakhs)

Year	Net Operating Profit(Loss)*	Cumulative Profit(Loss)*
1999-2000	(185.75)	(1332.16)
2000-2001	(304.04)	(1636.20)
2001-2002	(387.37)	(2023.57)

* As per provisional accounts.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As per the information provided by Government of Orissa, the Konark Jute Limited has been incurring losses since its inception. For long-term revival of the company, the State Government have taken a policy decision to privatize the Konark Jute Limited.

Non-Purchase of handloom items by Government departments

2931. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that stock of handloom and khadi items has piled up with the weavers;

(b) whether this situation has developed because of non-purchase of handloom items by the Government departments;

(c) whether Government propose to take any concrete action in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The Government Departments do not purchase all the items produced on handlooms.

(c) and (d) In so far as handlooms are concerned, the Government is providing assistance under the Marketing Incentive component of the Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan yojana which the handloom agencies are expected to use towards activities which would attract consumes in order to gear up the overall sales of handloom goods. The Government is also providing assistance for holding of National Handloom Expos, Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.